

SENATE APPROVES DRY AMENDMENT

House Changes Concurred In
by 47 to 8—Ready for
Action by States.

ELEVEN TO VOTE IN 1918

Anti-Saloon Leader Predicts
Ratification of Measure
in Three Years.

Special Despatch to The Sun.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—The dry
amendment to the Constitution is now
before the states for ratification. The
House today concurred in the amend-
ment to the resolution as it was
passed by the Senate. Immediately after
the passage of the amendment the
Senate passed a resolution that the
amendment should be referred to the
states for ratification by the year
1918.

Gov. Whitman said to-night that his
recommendation upon the prohibition
question during the coming session of
the Legislature would be guided by the
wishes of the temperance people of the
State.

NEW JERSEY.

Special Despatch to The Sun.
TRENTON, N. J., Dec. 18.—Neither Gov.
Whitman nor any other State official is
willing to predict what action the New
Jersey Legislature will take regarding
the prohibition amendment. The session
begins next month. Both parties already
are pledged to more county home rule
and the passage of a local option law
has been predicted. This may lead
eventually to the adoption of the amend-
ment.

OHIO.

Special Despatch to The Sun.
COLUMBUS, Ohio, Dec. 18.—Gov. Cox
says that as the present Legislature
was not elected on the prohibition issue
the question of ratification rests on the
attitude of the electors in choosing mem-
bers of the Assembly in 1919. Bene
Legislature is expected to follow the
result at the polls after the people vote
on Statewide prohibition. It is the claim
of Ohio liberals that by virtue of the
initiative and referendum they have the
right to vote by a direct referendum
on the Federal amendment. Based on
November's vote on prohibition the
chance of the amendment being ratified
is somewhat better than even.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Special Despatch to The Sun.
PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 18.—Advocates of
prohibition in Pennsylvania will bene-
fit their efforts during the next ten months
to the nomination and election of State
legislators favorable to the passage of
the amendment. The Legislature
which will be elected next fall will be
organized in January, 1919.

Gov. Brumbaugh is opposed to calling
a special session. He says it is a matter
for the newspapers and prohibition group-
ings to decide. He is in a hurry for the
passage of the amendment. The
amendment is expected to pass by a
vote of 100 to 0.

RHODE ISLAND.

Special Despatch to The Sun.
PROVIDENCE, Dec. 18.—Rhode Island
political circles at present are absolutely
indifferent on the subject of national
prohibition; that is, insofar as any con-
certed or organized movement regarding
it is in evidence. So far as the general
public is concerned there has been no
discussion in several years.

The State has local option, the thirty-
eight cities and towns having the privi-
lege of voting thereon at each and every
election, annual or biennial, the law in
the matter being mandatory and requir-
ing that the question shall be placed
upon the ballot, so that the voters
may exercise their right of expression.
Neither of the five cities have prohibi-
tion at present and only seven of the
smaller towns are dry.

In the cities and larger towns the
liquor traffic is regulated in a manner
that apparently meets with general sat-
isfaction. The fact that the license sys-
tem is so well received is largely re-
sponsible for the public sentiment in its
favor. This may be instanced in Provi-
dence, where the license vote at the last
election was 17,564 in favor and 6,918
against. In the entire State the vote
was 45,908 in favor and 17,255 against.

TEXAS.

Special Despatch to The Sun.
ATLANTA, Tex., Dec. 18.—It is probable
that Texas will be one of the first of
the States to ratify the prohibition amend-
ment. Gov. Hobby is considering con-
vening the Legislature in special ses-
sion the latter part of next month to act
upon other specific matters and the
amendment will then come up for vote.
It is assumed to advance that the amend-
ment will meet approval by a good
majority in both branches. More than
two-thirds of the members of the House
are pronounced advocates of nationwide
prohibition and only one vote is lacking
to making the Senate two-thirds in its
favor.

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U. S. TO REFUND CUSTOMS DUTIES

\$1,000,000 Due New York Im-
porters Because of Depreci-
ation of German Mark.

AN OLD LAW INVOKED

Similar Claims May Be Al-
lowed on Goods From Aus-
tria, France and Italy.

Special Despatch to The Sun.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Millions of
dollars of customs duties collected
from New York importers are to be re-
funded by the Government.

Duties are to be refunded under a
decision announced by the customs
division to-day on the appeal of Graham
& Zenger of New York against assess-
ment at par value of goods imported
from Germany at a time when the
German mark had depreciated more
than 10 per cent. in value.

The decision will cover scores of
other cases that have been placed be-
fore the Treasury on appeal affecting
imports from Germany, Austria-Hun-
gary, France, Italy and possibly other
countries.

The decision follows a legal battle in
which the claims of the big importers
were pressed by a great array of
formidable legal talent at hearings in
Washington. Claims were filed with the
Treasury under an old customs act and
consular regulations providing for an
allowance where currency of the coun-
try from which goods were imported
had depreciated more than 10 per cent.

In these cases acted to permit
the Director of the Mint. The act and
regulations provided that the deprecia-
tion must be cited on consular invoice.
Claims of depreciation of the German
mark could not be made in papers filed
with United States Consuls in Ger-
many because of a heavy penalty fixed
by the Imperial Government for putting
the coin of the realm to any compari-
son that would depreciate its value.

It was around this point that the
legal battle centered. Another point of
content in these cases acted to permit
the reopening of the cases even though
duties had been liquidated.

In broad terms the decision provides
that in cases where the importers have
paid duty assessed on the basis of par
exchange and the currency of the coun-
try from which the goods were imported
has depreciated in value 10 per cent. or
more, the difference between par and the
full amount of the depreciation may be
refunded. Proper evidence of the de-
preciation must be presented to the Gov-
ernment.

The decision says the refund in the
case filed on appeal shall be made by
quoting the mark at 2 1/4 cents, as com-
pared with the par of 10 cents.

The case involved in the ruling will
involve a refund of about a million
dollars. Treasury officials say they will
not attempt to estimate the total that
will be refunded.

In the case of Italy depreciation is
now being allowed on entry. Refund
will be made on past imports from Italy,
however, from about February, 1916, to
May of this year, when allowance was
begun.

Refunds will be made on Austrian
shipments from about January 1, 1915.
French currency has recently de-
preciated below the 10 per cent. mini-
mum, and allowance will be made.

Graham & Zenger are dealers in china
and porcelain at No. 105 Fifth avenue.
William P. Graham, president of the
firm, said last night that he had not
heard of the decision of the customs
division and so could not tell to what
extent his firm would be the gainer by
it, as the firm had brought several pro-
ceedings to have the duty reduced on
different importations. Some of the im-
portations were from Austria before war
was declared and others from Italy.

The State is to vote on an amendment
to the State Constitution providing for
Statewide prohibition.

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REPORT EXPLAINS SUGAR SITUATION

American Sugar Refining Co.
Issues Statement.

CROZIER WRONG ON ALLIES' GUN NEEDS

McCormick Quotes Comman-
ders to Show Sacrifices to
Aid Americans.

ITALY ESPECIALLY SHORT

Retain Made Plea for Cannon
and Shells if War Is to
Be Won.

Special Despatch to The Sun.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Flat contra-
diction of statements of Major-Gen. Wil-
liam Crozier, Chief of Ordnance, was
made before the Senate Committee on
Military Affairs to-day by Representative
Medell McCormick of Illinois. The
Congressman has recently returned from
an extended tour of the battle areas of
western Europe, where he talked with
military commanders of Great Britain,
France and Italy. He said that Great
Britain alone has a more than adequate
supply of the so-called "middle heavy"
artillery.

McCormick quoted a statement by the
chief of the committee that neither the
French nor the Italians have any artiller-
y to spare. The British, who in pro-
portion to their front have more guns by
far than either of the other two, are
according to their chief military authori-
ties will not have guns enough until next
spring.

The French give us guns because the
immediate necessities of our little army
in France are even greater than their
own. Gen. Foch, the French com-
mander in chief, said to me: "Make guns.
Send us guns and ammunition rather
than unfinished steel. We are grateful for
the little force you have sent us. The
more you send us, the more we shall be
able to fight by your side."

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Special Despatch to The Sun.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—The spirit of
strife became so rampant to-day in the
hearings before the sub-committee now
investigating the sugar situation that
Chairman Reed and Earl Babst, presi-
dent of the American Sugar Refining
Company, several times seemed on the
verge of an actual encounter. Great bit-
terness has developed in the relations
between the chairman and the repre-
sentative of the Food Administration,
of which Mr. Babst is a member.

The subject under discussion was the
relations of the Food Administration and
the so-called trust as developed in the
recent stringency in the sugar supply.
Mr. Babst produced a large chart show-
ing all up and down the price of sugar
and insisted that of forty-one upward fluc-
tuations of the sugar market seventeen
of the upturns had been started by ad-
vanced bidding by the buyers for the
Federal Sugar Refining Company, the
independent concern most frequently in
content with the trust.

Senator Reed told him that he was not
trying to find out who hid up sugar, but
what means were employed to procure
an adequate American supply out of the
world markets.

Senator Reed made an effort to prove
by Mr. Babst's own testimony that pres-
ent sugar shortages were due to the ac-
tion taken by the Food Administration in
assuming control of the commodity. He
had read into the record advertisements
published over Mr. Babst's own signa-
ture, and he said that the sugar shortage
was imminent despite the sugar stores
which predicted such a shortage.

Babst was forced to admit that the
prices of the "C" sugar, which is the best
grade of sugar, and also the best sugar,
which cost less to produce by a consid-
erable amount, was not cheaper in the
United States than in the foreign coun-
tries, and that the difference was
swallowed up by the exorbitantly high
profits of the beet sugar manufacturers,
while the producers of the best sugar
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